



Department of State

TELEGRAM

1089

POL 14 VIETS

9/15/67

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, NSAE 00, L 03, INR 07, P 04,

CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, AID 30, SAL 01, RSR 01, 136 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6931
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4252
AMCONSUL DANANG 966
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2533

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Dean Izenberg DATE 12/23/81

PD3 ☐ or YES ☐ EXT. DATE _____
YES ☐ NO ☐
EXEMPTED OR ☐ FOR ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASE ☒
RELEASE DATE ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6056

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL AND UPPER HOUSE ELECTION: SAIGON VOTE (NOT INCLUDING METROPOLITAN AREA OF GIA DINH).

1. THE TOTAL VOTE IN SAIGON WAS 583,243. THIS WAS 11.2 PERCENT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS, AND 11 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NATIONAL VOTE.

2. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: SAIGON WENT FOR TRAN VAN HUONG

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(25.3 PERCENT) BY A NARROW MARGIN OVER THIEU/KY (24.8 PERCENT).
DZU RECEIVED 16.1 PERCENT OF THE SAIGON VOTE, SUU 10.9 PERCENT,
AND HA THUC KY 6.2 PERCENT. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HUONG AND
THIEU, THE SHARE OF THE SAIGON VOTE TAKEN BY EACH CANDIDATE
WAS WITHIN ONE PERCENTAGE POINT OF THAT CANDIDATE'S SHARE OF
THE NATIONAL VOTE.

3. SAIGON WAS THE ONLY CITY OR PROVINCE CARRIED BY HUONG.

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THIS LOCALIZED SUCCESS MAY RESULT IN PART FROM GOODWILL BUILT UP DURING TWO SEPARATE TERMS AS PREFECT OF SAIGON. HUONG SUPPLIERS CARRIED ON A PERSONALIZED CAMPAIGN IN SAIGON/CHOLON TO PUBLICIZE MAI THO TRUYEN'S BUDDHIST AFFILIATION, AND THIS MAY HAVE WON SOME VOTES FOR THE HUONG/TRUYEN TICKET AMONG DEVOUT BUDDHISTS, PARTICULARLY WOMEN.

4. CHOLON GAVE HUONG A SLIGHT EDGE OVER THIEU, AS DID OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE CITY WHICH HAVE SIZEABLE CHINESE MINORITIES. THIS CAME AS A SHOCK TO CITY HALL, WHERE IT WAS FELT THAT THEIR EFFORTS TO WIN THE CHINESE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL. IT IS LIKELY THAT THESE EFFORTS HAD MUCH LESS EFFECT

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ON THE CHINESE RANK AND FILE THAN THEY DID ON THE LEADERS OF THE CHINESE COMMUNITY, AND ALSO THAT THE INFLUENCE OF THESE LEADERS IS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN IT FORMERLY WAS.

5. MAYOR CUA FEELS THAT THE THIEU/KY TICKET WOULD HAVE MADE A STRONGER SHOWING HAD IT BEEN HEADED BY KY INSTEAD OF THIEU. THIEU DIDN'T MAKE THE FAVORABLE SPLASH IN CHOLON THAT KY HAD, AND SOME OF THIEU'S ACTIVITIES MAY HAVE BEEN COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

HIS SEPTEMBER 27 VISIT TO THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS A CASE IN POINT. BEFORE THIEU'S ARRIVAL, HIS RELUCTANT HOSTS WERE ORDERED TO TAKE DOWN THE NATIONALIST CHINESE FLAGS WHICH THEY HAD PUT UP (IN CAREFUL ALTERNATION WITH VIETNAMESE FLAGS) ALONG THE APPROACH TO THE CHAMBER BUILDING ESPECIALLY FOR THE OCCASION.

6. IN SAIGON DISTRICTS ONE AND THREE, WHICH MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS THE WEALTHY, INTELLECTUAL, OR PRESTIGE SECTION OF THE CITY, THE VOTE WENT FOR THIEU. THIEU WON DISTRICT ONE BY A SLIGHT EDGE OVER HUONG, AND IN DISTRICT THREE HE BEAT HUONG BY A COMFORTABLE MARGIN. THIS ALSO WAS A SURPRISE TO CITY HALL, WHICH HAD EXPECTED TO LOSE IN THIS AREA.

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7 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION: LIST NO. 13, HEADED BY TRAN VAN DON, WAS THE BIG LEADER IN SAIGON, AS IN THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. THE ONLY OTHER NATIONWIDE WINNER WHICH ALSO APPEARED AMONG THE TOP SIX IN SAIGON WAS LIST NO. 40, A CATHOLIC LIST. LISTS 38 AND 27, BOTH OF WHICH WERE LINKED WITH TRAN VAN HUONG, PLACED FOURTH AND EIGHTH IN SAIGON. LISTS 2 AND 4, WHICH WERE SAID TO HAVE GOVERNMENT BACKING, PLACED THIRD AND SIXTH IN SAIGON. LIST 4 INCLUDED FIVE PROFESSORS IN SAIGON UNIVERSITY, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO ITS GOOD SHOWING IN SAIGON. ANOTHER LIST WITH SPECIAL SAIGON APPEAL WAS LIST 1, CONSISTING ENTIRELY OF EDITORS OF SAIGON NEWSPAPERS. IT PLACED FIFTH IN SAIGON.

8. VOTING PROCESS: THE VOTING PROCESS WAS WELL ORGANIZED AND CONDUCTED IN THE CITY OF SAIGON, AS WOULD BE EXPECTED, AND WE KNOW OF NO SERIOUS IRREGULARITIES. THERE WERE SCATTERED REPORTS OF VARIOUS POLLING STATIONS TEMPORARILY RUNNING OUT OF BALLOTS, AND, AS ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, VOTING OFFICIALS FAILED TO CHECK VOTERS' CARDS AGAINST THE VOTER LIST. THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF FRAUDULENT INTENT, HOWEVER. THE BALLOTING RECEIVED GREATER PRESS SCRUTINY IN SAIGON THAN ELSEWHERE, AND IN GENERAL IT WAS A MODEL OF HONESTY.

GP-3. BUNKER
IVT

NOTE: AS RECEIVED.

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